



News

Senior of the Year
Candidates

Private Education
Fund Rally

Sports

Logan Lockdown

Puma Athletes of the
Week

GLVC Basketball

Features

A Backstage Look at
"The Importance of
Being Earnest"

Theatre Review: "The
Importance of Being
Earnest"

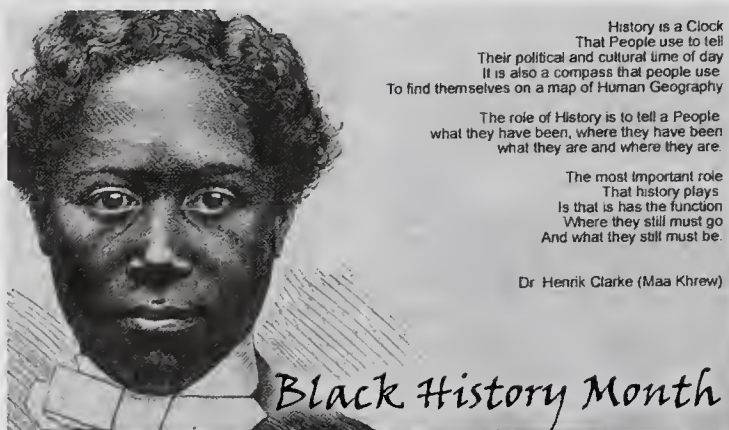
Shaun of the Dead
Movie Review

Et Cetera

Poetry

Funnies

Horoscopes



Black History Month

Since 1926, Americans have annually recognized the value and importance of its African-American citizens. From Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, and Colin Powel to Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey, Malcolm X, W.E.B. DuBois and countless others, the contributions the African-American community has made to society have been innumerable.

In order to raise awareness and comaraderie amongst its own community, members of the SJC family do their part to participate in Black History Month. In the past, SJC's Diversity Coalition has sponsored numerous successful events to promote the celebration of community, and the organization has many more plans in store for the future.

In honor of Black History Month, a Puma who has done more than her fair share of work tells her story. Read on to find out more about Nikita Hall, President of Diversity Coalition.

Black History Month Puma Profile: Nikita Hall

By Jenna Mullins, Staff Writer

Sophomore Nikita Hall loves to stand out. "I'm very loud," Nikita says with a laugh, "and I don't care what other people think about me. I'm very quick to speak my mind." If that kind of attitude doesn't make Hall stand out in the crowd, then her infectious smile and crazy personality certainly will. Beneath her sunny demeanor is a girl who knows what she wants in life and isn't afraid to go after it. "I'm extremely proud to be a strong African-American woman who is still in school and fulfilling all my dreams." Hall is part of many organizations on campus, including Diversity Coalition, Science Club, Student Life Committee, Chorus, and the Volleyball Club. As February is Black History Month, Saint Joseph's College is proud to honor one of its most involved and spirited students, Nikita Hall.

Hall comes to us from Laporte, Indiana, with a major in biology and a minor in music. An odd combination at first glance, but knowing Hall is knowing that her passion for music is one of the most influential spots in her life. "It's a gift from God. It's something I enjoy and if I have a gift, I want to be able to use it," Hall says. She started singing when she was merely five years old, when she received her first solo opportunity in church. She continued to practice her talent as the years went on, and now her gift has been brought to the Saint Joseph's community. As part of the chorus here on campus, she performs at masses and special occasions. Singing in church also gives

Hall a chance to be in a place she loves and looks to for reflection. "Church is fun; it's a different free time. I can be myself and I can enjoy myself. Just me and God."

She is president of the Diversity Coalition, which is an organization that promotes the awareness and education of the many different cultures on campus and in the community. Hall joined the club her freshman year after hearing junior Marcus Murphy discuss the amazing things the Diversity Coalition organizes. "I wanted to be involved and see what it was all about. Basically, I was just curious." Her curiosity has led her to positions as both Vice President and now President of the Diversity Coalition. Hall has been involved with the organization of the numerous activities the coalition heads up. One of the biggest events kicked off by the Diversity Coalition was this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. "The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events went well. The march was well attended, and the program was well attended," she said. Hall also had the opportunity to show off her amazing vocal skills during the program by performing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Hall is certainly doing her part to inspire the campus and the community. But who inspires her? "Definitely my mother. She was one out of nine children and had the opportunity to go to college. But she made the decision herself to be a mother and a wife and chose to start a family." Family is something that Hall cherishes to help find

her strength and to guide her in her life's decisions. "I come from a big, big family," Hall says. "They are always there for me; I know I can call them anytime, anywhere. They're the ones that got me started in church and helped me to develop my voice. I definitely would not be where I am today if it weren't for them." Family experiences have also helped develop a foundation on which Hall hopes to build a successful career. "I want to be a pediatrician. I helped raise my cousins, and being around them made me realize how much I love working with kids. I think I would be able to help make a difference for all children."

Black History Month is a chance for the campus and the community to celebrate all the accomplishments made by some of the most influential

African Americans in history. Hall feels this month is not only important to her, but for everyone. "Black History Month is important to me because I learn a lot about my heritage and who invented things and what went on when I wasn't even thought of." She also has her own ideas for bringing Black History into daily life, and, in true Hall style, isn't afraid to express her thoughts. "I think that Black History should be taught in school because there are things in the world that were invented by black people that we still use today. I think that it is a part of history that can be beneficial to everyone." With her larger-than-life attitude and passion to work towards her dreams, Hall is certainly one woman from whom we can expect exciting and powerful things.



Photo courtesy of Hall

Dear Pumas,

In my four years at Saint Joseph's College, I have seen many changes, some for the better and some for the worse. There have been campus renovations such as Seifert Hall, the library, cafeteria, Grotto, and new main entrance, which only have made Saint Joseph's College a more beautiful place to stay and succeed as students. We have been blessed with the addition of certain faculty and staff members who help the students as if they were their own children. There are a lot of people affiliated with the College that need to be commended and thanked for all of the hard work and dedication they put forth.

Although I would like to spend the rest of this letter mentioning all of the great things about this school, I can't. Why, you ask? Because at some point, this administration needs to stop censoring every single event that happens on this campus. Things cannot continuously be swept and hidden under the rug. Unfortunately, this has become a habit, most recently in the instance of comedian Bill Burr's performance at Saint Joseph's College on February 10. I would never speak for everyone, but I attended the performance, and, based on how many people's stomachs hurt afterwards, it seemed like one—no wait, maybe two people had a

great time. Personally, this was one of the best programs I have ever attended. Comments after the show was over were, "We need to go see him in Chicago," "I hope we invite him back," "That guy was great," and "I couldn't stop laughing." After the performance, the Puma Rumor (which we need to somehow stop!) was that certain individuals in the administration did not like some of the language Burr chose to use or the jokes he made about the Catholic Church, and said that we would never invite him back to perform. First of all, to my recollection, this was a free program put on by the Student Union Board, which, in my mind, means no one is

forcing any student or faculty member to be there. For those students or faculty members who didn't enjoy the performance, I wish you would've let me know, because I would've happily walked you to the door so you didn't have to witness any more. And for those who didn't see all the signs that read "Don't miss the comedy of Bill Burr," I hope you weren't surprised when you didn't see a priest come up on stage and start doing comedy. Secondly, I'd like to commend the student members of SUB because after all the turmoil this year concerning the departed director, they managed to finally spend the little money they have
Continued on Page 3

By Bob Jansen, Columnist

Early each day to the steps of Saint Paul's / The little old bird woman comes / In her own special way to the people she calls / "Come, buy my bags full of crumbs / Come feed the little birds, / Show them you care / And you'll be glad if you do / Their young ones are hungry / their nests are so bare / All it takes is tuppence from you"

I absolutely love Plato's *Symposium*. As the plot begins, friends invite Socrates to a symposium, which literally means drinking party. Socrates stops walking to the party suddenly and stands lost in thought. In fact, he was often ridiculed for being a bit of an airhead. I always thought this was a great image of Socrates, because I've done the same thing. An idea will strike me and I will zone out completely. This actually happened to me recently, and this time it was not during a core lecture! I was struck by the lyrics to "Feed the Birds" in *Mary Poppins*, quoted above. I always thought it was stupid for people to feed birds, much less pay money to some crazy bird woman to get a bag of feed to throw at the air-born pests. I had to contend with birds when I mowed the church lawn back home. They would swoop in front of me, poop on me, and never give me a moment's rest whenever I was anywhere near their nests. I essentially had the mindset of George, the father in

Mary Poppins, who chastises his son Michael for wishing to feed the birds. "Put your tuppence in the bank!" he recommends ever so pragmatically. While thinking of this, I made a strange connection to Plato's *Symposium* (and, perhaps appropriately, was made fun of for zoning out when I made the connection). The idea behind *Symposium* is that because those gathered were too hung over from the previous night's activities, they decided to have a contest. The person who gave the best definition of love would win. Socrates, whose speech is always the best, at least according to our biased Plato, suggests that love is understood in the image of a ladder of Beauty. We begin by appreciating physical beauty and then progress to souls, wisdom, and finally God: the Form of Beauty. This makes sense after a little reflection. Relationships may start out by a physical attraction. If that relationship becomes serious and more formal, there should be a deeper bond uniting

those people. Within this bond is the wisdom and love of God that strengthens and unites all things. Similarly, I fell in love with *Phantom of the Opera* because of the stunning beauty of the sets. Beginning with this superficial beauty, I slowly gained a much deeper appreciation for the symbolism and storyline. Of course, the gorgeous figure of Emmy Rossum, as Christine, didn't hurt this process either. Universalizing this theme, how can we really appreciate the world if we abuse or hold animosity toward nature? Perhaps I am just an overzealous, tree-hugging hippy, but is it possible for us to appreciate the food we eat if we do not first give thanks to the land from whence it came? Were the Native Americans out of touch with reality when they gave thanks to the animals they killed to provide sustenance? God, unfortunately, will not manifest Himself to us in the form of phone calls, Instant Messages, e-mails, or faxes. As I stated in my last article, His manifestation to us is in the

beauty of all that surrounds us. Nature is the reality of God among us. As implied in Genesis, we are the caretakers of God's Garden and the stewards of God's love. I think God wants us to feed the birds, but not because the birds are hungry. It helps us to see the inherent beauty in creation. If my challenge last time was to try and see God everywhere, my suggestion this time is to work your way to that point. Climb the ladder of Beauty slowly and carefully. If our goal is to see God in *everyone* around us, we first need to see him in *everything*. See the beauty of grass, trees, snow, and even birds. Then see the hand that made those creatures. See the unifying bond between all living things, because this bond is God. It's a life-altering view, but one definitely worth working toward, and it only costs our time and attention. So take a few minutes to feed the birds. It's only tuppence for a bag. Oh, and say Hi to the wise old bird woman for me.

FEATURED PHILOSOPHICAL FARCE

By Matt LeClaire, Columnist

A Bird In The Hand Is Worth More Than One Way To Skin A Gift Horse In The Mouth

There are many sayings, most of which make sense, that are used in everyday language: don't put all your eggs in one basket, don't count your eggs before they hatch, he's a good egg, he's a rotten egg, she's got egg on her face, I like eggs.... Okay, so there are not only many sayings, but also a good amount involving prenatal chickens. There are, in addition, some sayings that make little or no sense, since they don't have purposes—the one saying I have always had a problem with is "the birds and the bees."

Where does this come from? This is commonly used as a euphemism for sexual education; but, why birds and bees? From what I know of birds and bees, birds enjoy the occasional bee snack. I don't think bees sexually enjoy being eaten. No matter how much I taunted and tempted bees in the past, they never went in my mouth! Birds must have all the luck with their beaks overflowing with bees and their nests, and whatnot. As far as I can tell, the saying has no rhyme or reason to it. If birds and bees did mate, a fowl yellow-black striped abomination of apocalyptic proportions would be

spawned capable of chirping heavenly music and stinging things once before dying. So far, I have not seen such a creature roaming about. One would think they would be more prevalent from the saying, or simply because the same combination would come from wasps mating with Sirens, hornets mating with Whitney Houston, and John Lennon carrying a large disposable spork. Some investigative team should be established to dig up the origins of this lunacy about avian cross-species breeding. I want Joe Friday! Where is Joe Friday? I want the facts.

Won an award? Aced a project? Accepted an internship?

If you have an accomplishment that you'd like to share with your hometown newspaper, fill out a "Student Achievement Form" so the Office of Publications and Media Relations can issue a news release about you! News can also be submitted to Director Bree Ma'Ayteh by e-mailing breain@saintjoe.edu or calling extension 6177. Forms can also be faxed to her at 866-6354.

To access the form online, visit the "Current Students" OR "News" link on the SJC Web site and click on "Student Achievement Form."

PAWS:

...to the five seniors nominated for the Senior of the Year award. Congratulations on your accomplishments!



CLAWS:

...to Core XI members for not signing up for Dart League, resulting in the bar being closed on Mondays.



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Letter to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

on an event that a lot of students attended and many students enjoyed. Anyone who blamed the SUB members for inviting him is barking up the wrong tree. Burr was ordered through an agency, and, yes, certain SUB members viewed a demo tape of one of his performances before booking him. Now, I'm not the sharpest tool in the shed, but I'm betting that the tapes Burr sends out to recruit colleges and universities to book him aren't filled with "the F-bomb" and religious jokes. So, then, is it Burr's fault for not doing the exact same act that was on the tape that was provided to SUB? No, because the comedians who continue to do the same, innocent, non-offending material for ten years straight at every performance become bus boys at the local restaurant.

I really think it's a hypocrisy not to allow a comedian who is probably one of the most famous people to visit our campus (other than President Eisenhower's visit in '62) to come back and perform again. This is the same administration that allows certain vulgar, violent, sex-filled movies

on the Puma Channel. And not only that, but they also provide us with Comedy Central, where you can watch a taped performance of Bill Burr—the same Bill Burr who came here and performed at our school. I love it when the administration starts telling the students what they can and can't hear at a performance where they have the option of attending or not attending. I'm a reasonable man, and if we invited Bill Burr to speak at our graduation in May and he did that material, yes, I would be embarrassed and ashamed. I would be embarrassed and ashamed because many moms, dads, and grandparents have to be there to see us get our diplomas of higher education from a school where the Core Program stresses that all people's viewpoints are their own and students can feel free to express what they believe. So, after getting this education, I've learned that I'm allowed to express my own viewpoints and beliefs, but I'm not allowed to attend a free show where someone else expresses his or her own viewpoints and beliefs.

-- Eric Peschke, *senior*

“Fund Students First!” Indianapolis Student Lobby Day

By Renee Pugh, *Staff Writer*

On Thursday, Feb. 24, the Independent Colleges of Indiana, a lobby group that represents private colleges in Indiana, will be sponsoring a Student Lobbying Day at the Indiana State House in Indianapolis. According to ICI, “the purpose of this one-day event is to focus attention on the frozen levels of student aid funding and their potential impact on student enrollment, retention, and graduation.” The theme for this year's event is “Fund Students First!” Participants will meet at the Hilton Hotel at 120 West Market Street in Indianapolis for lunch at 11:00 a.m. and then walk to the State House, where they will deliver individual addresses concerning personal experiences with state financial aid to the senators and representatives from their respective hometowns. SJC has been invited to send 10-15 representatives to the event in

order to share their opinions and experiences on the matter.

Dean of Students John Keller noted the impact the event has on legislative decisions regarding student financial aid. “The state of Indiana operates on a two-year budget cycle,” explained Keller. “[SJC participated] two years ago when the budget was being prepared and [our efforts] were very successful. As a result of the effort of the students, financial aid for students at private colleges was not cut.” Many SJC students and their families are all too familiar with the hardships that accompany pursuing higher education. Tuition alone is \$19,000 per year here at SJC, and this cost excludes other expenses, such as room and board, as well as annual tuition increases. Thus, ICI's cause finds sympathy amongst SJC students, as demonstrated by past participation in the event.

“When we [attended the Lobby Day] two years ago, SJC had the second largest [student] contingent in the state, and the students had a great experience,” said Keller.

Keller also noted the importance of the event for SJC students. “Legislators need to hear from the people who elect them, those they represent,” he explained. “This is particularly true about an issue that will have a direct effect on the financial aid many of our students receive.” While past participation has been strong, only a few students have expressed interest in attending this year's rally. Interested students should contact Keller's office at 6127 by Friday, Feb. 18. “We are hoping that we can get 10-15 students to participate [this year],” said Keller. “SJC students cannot afford to let their state financial aid be cut or frozen without voicing their opinion.”

SJC Announces Candidates for 2005 Senior of the Year

By Becky Scherer, *Editor in Chief*

Annually, the Saint Joseph's College Alumni Association honors one outstanding senior with the prestigious Bernard A. Balas Senior of the Year Award. The five candidates for 2005 are Mary Balmes, Brian Bugajski, Brandon Deardorff, Karen Miller and Jen Willig. The winner will be announced at the President's Senior Dinner on Friday, April 15.

Nominees for Senior of the Year are chosen by students in the senior class, who submitted their votes for three candidates at the beginning of January. Candidates are required to have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 (minimum) on a 4.0 scale and completed and passed at least 105 college credit hours.

In the first week of February, each candidate was interviewed by a selection committee consisting of members of the Alumni Association's board of directors. The winner will receive an engraved clock and

have his/her name listed on the plaque outside of the Student Development Office, located on the second floor of the Halleck Student Center.

“The Senior of the Year Award is quite an honor because the individual has been recognized by both the Alumni Association as well as his/her own classmates,” commented Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Kendra Illingworth.

Mary Balmes, a mathematics major and secondary education minor, comes to SJC from Crown Point, Indiana. Involved in Peer Ministry, Volunteer Corps, the College's chapter of the Indiana State Education Association, and the regional Science Olympiad competition, she also serves as an assistant to Assistant Professor of Mathematics Marge McIlwain. A four-year member of the soccer team, she has been named to the Academic All-Conference and Academic All-District and is an Academic All-American. Her post-graduation plans include

teaching mathematics at the high school level.

Brian Bugajski is a history major and communication and theatre arts minor from Cedar Lake, Indiana. A recipient of the SJC Scholarship, which pays a portion of SJC's tuition costs for four years, he is the senior class president, president of the Phi Alpha Theta national historical honor society, and historian for the Columbian Players (the college's acting troupe). He writes “Stuff,” a column for the campus newspaper “The Observer” that delves into the history behind SJC, and has driven in SJC's Little 500 annual race for two years, his third time coming this April. After he receives his diploma in May, Bugajski plans to attend graduate school and study historic preservation.

Brandon Deardorff, a business management major and marketing minor, hails from Beecher, Illinois. He is a recipient of the prestigious Presidential

Scholarship, which covers full tuition at SJC for four years, and a member of the Delta Epsilon Sigma honor society. In addition, he serves as president of the SJC chapter of Students In Free Enterprise, is a member of the Volunteer Corps, and belongs to the Woodrow Wilson Fellow Planning Committee. Last fall, he completed his fourth year on the College's football team as a kicker. After graduation, he plans to pursue advertising in the Chicagoland area.

Karen Miller, a mathematics major and computer science and business administration double minor, comes to SJC from Tinley Park, Illinois. An active member of the College's volleyball team, she is a recipient of an athletic scholarship and belongs to the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. Her academic honors include receiving SJC's Honors Scholarship (which covers a portion of SJC's tuition costs for four years), belonging to the Delta Epsilon Sigma honor

society and chairing one of several committees for the Little 500 go-kart race. Miller's post-graduation plans include pursuing a business position in Chicago or Indianapolis.

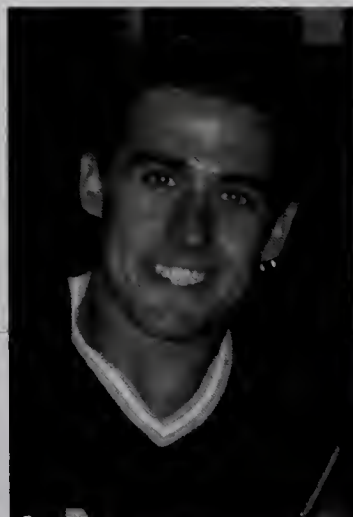
Jen Willig, a mathematics and physical education double major and secondary education minor, is a native of Lombard, Illinois. A recipient of the Deans Scholarship (which covers a portion of SJC's tuition costs for four years), Willig is a member of the softball team, Music Ministry, and Student Senate. She is also the Little 500 coordinator, a mathematics tutor and department assistant to McIlwain. This fall, she will complete her student teaching in Lombard and hopes to secure a job teaching in the Chicagoland area.



Mary Balmes



Brian Bugajski



Brandon Deardorff



Karen Miller



Jen Willig

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno

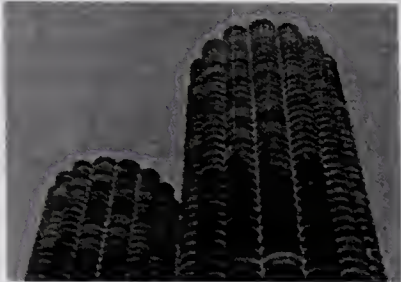


Photo courtesy of www.wilcoweb.com

Wilco's *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*

Wilco, a Chicago-based band, has managed to change their style of music over the last several years. Once considered to be a form of alt-country, the band has slowly progressed to a new type of sophisticated sound. In their evolution, they have produced an album that is considered to be one of the most definitive rock albums of our time.

In 2002, Wilco released *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. The critics ate up this album as if it were a delectable pastry. *Rolling Stone Magazine*, *Magnet Magazine*, *Pitchfork Media*, and many more infamous music-related publications gave this album rave reviews. Ironically, this album was almost never put on the market.

Wilco's original record label, Reprise, had some qualms about the band's new style of music. Their original sound, which was more of a poppy alt-country sound, had started to develop into a slightly more experimental sound with fun quirks, unique instrumentation, and poetic lyrics. This new evolution of Wilco did not sit well with Reprise.

Reprise wanted the less experimental version of Wilco, and, with that, the bickering between the two ensued. Reprise refused to issue the album on their label, and since the record label had complete ownership of the songs, Wilco was not able to release their album. As the dispute over the album continued, the prolonged release of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* led front man Jeff Tweedy to host the songs on Wilco's website. After much hard work, Wilco purchased their songs back from Reprise and found a new home with Nonesuch records. Finally, a record label had realized that *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* was a gem!

Yankee Hotel Foxtrot opens up with "I am Trying to Break Your Heart." This song has a pompous, experimental feel to it. The instrumentation is not the only unique thing, but

Tweedy's lyrics stand out. Lyrics like "I'm an American aquarium drinker" add to the matchless styling of what is to come on the rest of the album. "Radio Cure" has slow drumming that is reminiscent of a heartbeat. The drumming mixed with the minor key gives this song a lonely feel. Lyrics such as "Distance has no way of making love understandable" exemplify Tweedy's solitude.

The violin in "Jesus Etc." is perhaps the most memorable thing in the song. The violinist seems to whirl the listener into the song in the opening measures. Throughout the song, the violin frames the simple lyrics perfectly, creating a nice mellow blend of soft vocals, poetic lyrics, and simple guitar. "Heavy Metal Drummer" is probably the fastest tempo song on the album. This song keeps Wilco's poppy sound by mixing it with their experimental side. The lively lyrics and instrumentation of this song have allowed it to gain much popularity amongst the masses.

In closing up the album, Wilco decided to bring the record back down to a mellower note with "Reservations." Tweedy's vocals are accompanied by simple chords on a piano. The simplicity of the orchestration allows the listener to pay attention to the lyrics. With his natural vocals, uncluttered by fancy guitar, he sings the words "I've got reservations about so many things, but not about you" as *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* draws to a close.

This is truly a great rock record that any music lover should possess. The experimentation, lyrics, and orchestration are things that should not be passed up. Sadly, Reprise was too short-sighted and let this album slip through their fingers. I have a funny suspicion that they are kicking themselves for letting this handsome album go.

See www.wilcoweb.com for more information

By Katherine Grgic, Staff Writer

On February 3-5, 2005, Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" in all its hilarity, plot twists, and wacky British Humor graced the SJC stage. The play, a social satire on Victorian society in Britain, lampoons the idle and ridiculous aspects of the uppercrust social sphere. Wilde's acerbic wit criticizes the institution of marriage, manners, pastimes, and art during the Victorian Era, and holds up Victorian values and mores to the harsh glare of comedic light. More witty than slapstick, this play subsists on intellectual humor and epigrams (or "one-liners") for most of its laughs.

For the most part, the cast and crew of this year's show did the play justice. Freshman B.J. Houlding proved hysterical as Algernon Moncrieff's butler; sophomore Danny Waclaw practically stole the show as Dr. Chasuble with his well-timed facial expressions and movements; and the interplay between Miss Prism, played by sophomore Marcie Keyes, and Waclaw combined both humor and charm. Junior Kelly Bielak played a very sweet



Photo of Oscar Wilde courtesy of <http://homepages.gold.ac.uk/oscholars/library.html>

and convincing Cecily, paired once again with Chris Moran, who played the part of Algernon Moncrieff with a perfect combination of arrogance and appeal. Junior Liz Henning delivered ample amounts of snobbery and attitude as Aunt Augusta, keeping close watch over the relationship between Jack Worthing, played by sophomore Kenton Saylor, and Gwendolyn, played by senior Kristi Zurawski. Overall, the cast worked well together to deliver an amusing rendition of this extremely popular play.

As a whole, however, this was not my favorite out of the shows I have seen performed at SJC. Some lines missed

their mark, and the fact that some characters spoke in accent and others did not proved a bit distracting. There were also times when characters moved out of the time period of the play and behaved in a more contemporary manner, which jarred with the period costumes worn by the cast. I love "The Importance of Being Earnest," but I felt that the show did not quite succeed in winning over its Puma audience, whether it was because it was a different type of humor or because some lines required understanding of the context in which Wilde wrote the play. Either way, while the show was definitely enjoyable, engaging, and entertaining, I did not find myself as impressed as I usually tend to be after watching an SJC theatrical performance.

I would like to congratulate the cast and crew for doing a fine job with a difficult play, and wish them all the best of luck in future theatrical endeavors. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for "The Boyfriend," this year's musical, which hits SJC on April 7-9, 2005.

A Backstage Look at *Earnest*

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

Spirits were high and low at the close of the Columbian Players' production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* on February 5. The production of Oscar Wilde's pinnacle of wit and whimsy saw rather large crowds and a jovial atmosphere during its three-night run.

The cast and crew of *Earnest* were immensely pleased with the show, but this is not to say that they were all completely enthralled with every aspect of it. Junior Liz Henning attests to having loved being involved in the production for the most part.

"When it ended, I had a sense of relief for about three days," Henning admits. After having reflected on the show as a whole, from rehearsal to performance, she now feels a slight nostalgia for the experience.

When questioned as to the cause of her delayed nostalgia, Henning replied that a certain element of the production "made it particularly difficult to enjoy the experience"—namely the difficulty of some

cast members to retain lines and the attitude of a cast member about this problem.

Though not entirely in agreement as to the problems of the production, junior Kelly Bielak and senior Kristi Zurowski, the dueling female leads in the show, affirmed the greatness of the production, citing great acting and phenomenal directing as prime causes.

Senior Erin Diener, Director John Rahe's directing assistant, was also pleased with the hard work that everyone put in. After three to four months of rehearsal, and in spite of the slight difficulties of working on the set, there was "more crunch time" than she would have liked.

An interesting part of the play was Rahe's more visual approach to Wilde's normally deadpan play. Henning admits to being shocked, initially, since she had seen multiple commercial productions of the play. "In the final analysis," she concedes, rather affirmatively, "John's

approach worked best for the cast that we had and for the audience."

Diener had no doubts about Rahe's approach. "If we had attempted to perform the play deadpan in the winter, we would have bored the crowd to death," Diener states. She adds that the additional touches—such as the prolonged whistling at the beginning of the third act and the innuendo with Gwendolen's laying on Jack on the floor of the stage—came naturally out of the language of the play.

All in all, the cast seems to have had a delightful time with the production, certainly a fact to which the audiences could attest. Henning adds that she believes the production will live on, hoping that someday, when a member of the audience sees the play elsewhere, there will be a "slight, quaint moment when one person turns to the other and says, 'I saw a great production of that back at Saint Joseph's College.'"

Shaun of the Dead: A One-of-a-Kind Rom-Zom-Com

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

Meet Shaun, a guy with real problems. His exasperated girlfriend, Liz, has broken up with him because of his lack of motivation. His stressed-out flat mate, Pete, is demanding Shaun's lazy best-friend, Ed, be kicked out of their apartment for being sloppy and constantly leaving the front door open. And his overbearing stepfather, Philip, is on Shaun's case about spending time and bringing flowers to his doting but flighty mother, Barbara.

Oh, and citizens all around him are turning into zombies, out to feed on his flesh.

What's a twenty-something electronic store manager to do?

In this British spoof of *Dawn of the Dead*, comedy meets horror and suspense. Rated R and appropriately labeled a rom-zom-com by director Edgar Wright, *Shaun of the Dead* is a must-see for all types of people, especially those searching for tactics to identify and annihilate zombies.

Destroying a zombie's head or brain is the only way to end its flesh buffet, and Shaun (Simon Pegg) and Ed (Nick Frost) must kill all who stand in their way while attempting to reconcile with and rescue Shaun's ex-girlfriend and mother.

I can't say I've ever seen a zombie, unless mentally detached students filing out of

a particularly enlightening Core lecture count, but if the undead really did walk the earth (or at least London), I imagine they'd look a lot like those in *Shaun of the Dead*. Zombies simply get a bad reputation because of their dietary habits and leisurely, mummy-like pace that holds up traffic, but they are not bad blokes at all when properly bludgeoned.

Taking particular enjoyment from beating in zombies' skulls, Ed is a slothful video-game player, faithful "Winchester" pub drunkard, and inconsiderate, disgusting oaf.

He makes the movie. Somewhere deep, deep, deep under his insensitive,

boorish appearance, he is a loyal friend to Shaun, his sidekick and comrade. Ed is ready at a moment's notice to help defend Shaun's mother, for whom he holds a particularly disturbing affection. The chemistry alone between Shaun and Ed makes the movie worth renting.

In addition to spoofing *Dawn of the Dead*, *Shaun of the Dead* also parodies movies such as *Night of the Living Dead*, *28 Days Later*, *A Clockwork Orange*, and *Reservoir Dogs*.

Shaun of the Dead has it all: love, hilarity, and a bunch of blood-soaked brain eaters. What more is there to life?

So, if you're a hopeless romantic who would like to

see the pathetic but loveable underachiever get the girl, a person in need of a hearty laugh at the expense of dim-witted zombies, or a sick-minded gore fan who is interested in watching a really annoying guy get ripped to shreds and eaten, then run, don't walk ploddingly with arms outstretched and moaning for your next victim, to the nearest video store and rent, or better yet buy, *Shaun of the Dead*. You won't be disappointed.

Writer's Note If you are disappointed and then bitten by a zombie, please don't come looking for me; my delicious brains are already spoken for.

Valentines Failure

By Joe Larson, Features Editor

There are plenty of advice columns out there about how to be romantic. This is not one of them. This is a guide for the guys who should not have had a girlfriend in the first place; the guys who spend more money on Xbox games than on their significant others; and the guys who thought Valentines Day was in October. This column is not about romance. It is about damage control.

This year's Valentines Day is over, so you have 364 days to plan next year's fiasco. There are three basic approaches to surviving next Valentines Day.

Plan A: Look good by comparison. Chances are that your girlfriend knows some guy who actually does romantic things for his girlfriend. My advice is to kill that guy. Be sure to keep your goals reasonable; you don't have to murder everyone more romantic than yourself—a good maiming will usually do the trick.

Unfortunately, there is no way to ruin everyone who is better at romance than you, but there is an alternative. Simply make up an imaginary person so horrible that you look marginally less-terrible by comparison. The grass is always greener on the other side, unless that grass happens to be owned by Charles Manson. Be sure to say things like, "You should be happy with those flowers. All Ryan Smith gave his girlfriend was a concussion." Not being a convicted felon will make you look more impressive than your imaginary rival.

Plan B: Dump your girlfriend. Sometimes it's better to jump than to be pushed. Also referred to as a

preemptive dump, this method is the most cost effective. Be sure to dump your girlfriend before Valentines Day, Christmas, and her birthday, only to beg for forgiveness the second any expectation of romance or gift-giving has ended.

Plan C: Hit rock bottom. If you are a long-term boyfriend, you will always be expected to surpass the accomplishments of the previous Valentines Day. If you bought your girlfriend flowers this year, be ready to buy her flowers and dinner the next. If you did both this year, be prepared to make a down payment on a yacht.

This process is stupid and counterproductive. Rather than raising the bar, why not knock it to the ground and start over? Be so terrible now that there is no possible way that next time could be any worse.

Hitting the bottom is not as easy as it sounds. Be sure to make a date with your girlfriend for Valentines Day, and then show up four hours late. When she asks where you were, tell her you were off dating other, hotter girls. Then, instead of flowers, give her a dead cat you found on the side of the road. Assure her that it's only been dead for a month or two, so it's practically as good as new. If she doesn't break up with you after this-- which would take a miracle-- then you have just guaranteed that there is no way you could possibly do any worse next Valentines Day.

By following these simple steps, you can ensure that no girl will ever expect you to be romantic again. In fact, no girl will expect you to do anything other than stay away, mostly because of restraining orders.

Stuff



by Brian Bugajski

Schwietermann House is probably the first building you entered when visiting Saint Joseph's College because it houses the current Welcome Center. Yearly, hundreds of nervous high school seniors pass through Schwietermann's doors and complete the first step in their long journey to an SJC diploma. Considering that almost all Pumas within the last five years have started their journey by first visiting the Welcome Center, I figured that a brief history of Schwietermann House would be an excellent topic for this issue of *Stuff*.

Groundbreaking for Schwietermann House was made in 1962 by Father Ildephonse Rapp, C.P.P.S. Rapp was the last remaining human tie to the beginning of the college. "He arrived as a student in 1893 and joined the faculty in 1904," states Father Gerlach, C.P.P.S., author of the *Saint Joseph's College Centennial Pictorial History*. Rapp was in his thirteenth year of retirement when asked to serve as the ceremonial groundbreaker for the building.

The building received its name, Schwietermann, surprisingly from a man whose only connection to the College was his attendance as a

seminarian. Richard Schwietermann attended SJC from 1898 to 1905 and produced no specific impact while here. His real-world contributions are what caused his name to grace the C.P.P.S. living quarters. "His name was suggested by Raymond Ziegman, a member of the Lay Board of Trustees," writes Gerlach. Ziegman had been a seminarian who studied under Schwietermann in Burkettsville, Ohio. A short time after Ziegman and Father Schwietermann parted ways, Schwietermann was shot to death by a deranged parishioner. The parishioner requested Schwietermann's ministry, and committed the crime. "When the priest entered the room in which the man was a bed patient, the man drew a gun and shot the priest point blank in the stomach," states the *Centennial Pictorial History*. Ziegman, the Lay Board of Trustees, and the C.P.P.S. members all agreed that honoring Schwietermann's sacrifice by naming the hall after him was fitting.

The building was finished in the spring of 1963, and was blessed by the Most Reverend Egidio Vagnozzi on May 1 of the same year. The building contained 66 apartment-style rooms and a ground floor to be used for general purposes. The building was to serve as a motivational factor for C.P.P.S. members to request placement at the College and to attract retiring members of the order. "Only the latter turned out to be true," writes Gerlach. The building was too large for use by only C.P.P.S. members, so some of the rooms were opened to students and the

first floor was made into the present day Health Center, Welcome Center, and conference rooms. Ten of the apartments have been converted into nicely furnished guest rooms for important visitors of the College.

Even though Schwietermann House is not exclusively for the C.P.P.S., the members living there manage to preserve a family atmosphere. On the C.P.P.S. floor (3rd floor), the priests and brothers share common recreation areas such as a television room, snack room, and reading room. Each member is responsible for "contributing their individual talents for the well functioning of the house," writes Gerlach. As students, we can see one such member contributing his individual talent as we walk past the beautiful gardens on the east side of Schwietermann House and Gaspar Center. During the warm weather months, Father Paul White, C.P.P.S., has been in charge of keeping this area beautiful for many years, and it shows.

Clearly Schwietermann House serves the C.P.P.S. and Saint Joseph's College in many ways. One can consider the building to be the tie between the College's past and its future. Schwietermann House is tied to the past through its name, groundbreaker, and current C.P.P.S. residents. The building is also tied to the future each time a new student walks through the Welcome Center's door.

Home Sweet Home for SJC Men's Team

By Adam Lowell Mandon
Sports Editor

The Saint Joseph's College Men's Basketball team is playing for their playoff lives. They've already assured themselves of a slot in the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament in Evansville (they'll finish in the top six of the eight teams to go to the tournament), but to receive an at-large bid in the Division II national tournament, they are going

to have to finish the season by winning out.

The strength of schedule during the last two weeks actually favors the Pumas. They have four straight home games, and if they win out two of the teams they play will be quality wins.

The Pumas are at the bottom of the top ten list in the Great Lakes Region. In order to receive an at-large



The Pumas are 7-3 at home this season.

bid, the Pumas must finish in the top eight. Their game Thursday February 17th is one of the two biggest games this season. The

Greyhounds of Indianapolis are ranked fourth in the Great Lakes Valley region. More importantly they're the Pumas' greatest rival. The Pumas are looking to sweep the Greyhounds, after defeating U of I 81-78 in January.

After the Pumas play host to Oakland City and Lewis, they have another extremely important game

against Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville February 26th. SIUE is ranked directly behind Indianapolis at fifth in the region. If the Pumas do what they need to, they'll be assured an at-large bid in the tournament.

The cards are stacked in their favor; they're playing in their backyard. Only time will tell if the Pumas have enough gas left in the tank to finish their job.

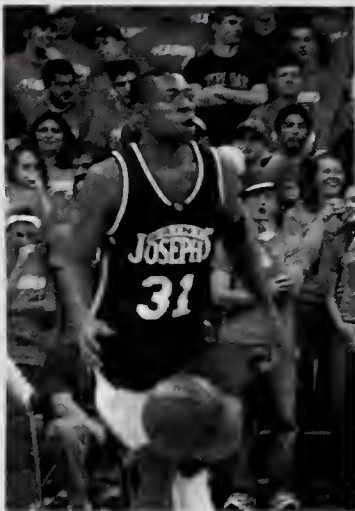


Logan Lockdown..



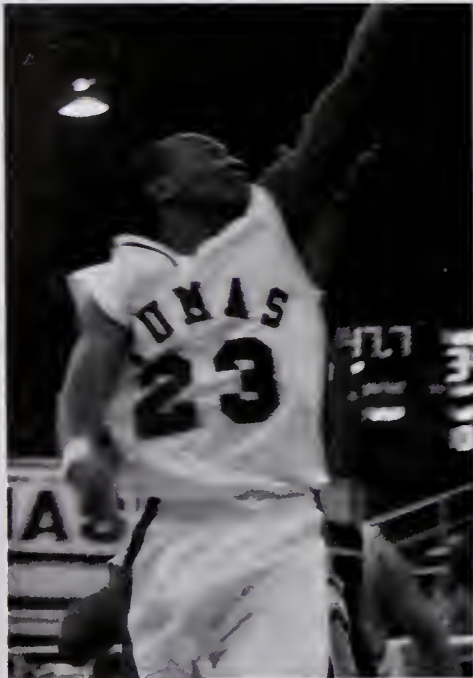
By Adam Lowell Mandon, *Sports Editor*

For the Pumas to defeat Indianapolis, they've got to shut down Senior guard David Logan. The 6-1 senior is averaging 28 points per game (good enough for second-best in the nation), and last week he was named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week for the sixth time this season. He averaged 33 points per contest, eight rebounds, and nearly six assists against Bellarmine and Northern Kentucky. It's going to be tough, but it will be a challenge that SJC's guards will salivate for. Rashad McSwine leads the team with over two steals per contest, and Jonathan Pitman should be able to use his long 6-3



frame to disrupt Logan's vision. Senior captain Marvin Smith should also get a few cracks at knocking down Logan. Smith has always been known for his defensive prowess.

In the Pumas' first meeting against the Greyhounds, Logan lit up SJC for 32 points, though the Pumas prevailed 81-78. Logan struggled from the field all game, shooting just 13-30 from the field. The Pumas best chance at shutting down the Greyhounds' top scorer is to physically wear him down. The Pumas need to rough up the guard and tire him to the point of exhaustion.



Coach Lou Wants YOU at These Upcoming Home

February 17

Women's Basketball vs Indianapolis 5:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Indianapolis 7:30 p.m.

February 20

Men's Basketball vs. Oakland City 2:00 p.m.

February 26

Women's Basketball vs. SIU Edwardsville 1 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. SIU Edwardsville 3 p.m.

February 27

Men's Tennis vs. Franklin 9 a.m.

There's No Single **I** in Team...There're Three

By Adam Lowell Mandon, *Sports Editor*

For those of you who know me, I consider myself a pretty big Indiana Hoosiers basketball fan. So as I preface this column with that, it's painful for me to admit this, but Illinois will win the NCAA National Championship. What makes it worse for Hoosier fans is that they'll be the first team to finish the season undefeated since the 1976 Hoosiers went 32-0, putting their already dusty record away and making it ancient history.

Dee Brown, Luther Head and Deron Williams are just unbelievable athletes who know the game of basketball. Watching these three play is like watching a poem flow from Edgar Allen Poe. They're as smooth as sand running through an hour glass. It seems these three have been playing together for the last ten years.

In what was a close game by the Illini's standards last Saturday against Wisconsin, Deron Williams made two long three point shots to ignite a 10-0 run to start the second half, and Dee Brown hit two three point shots from beyond NBA range and made a pair of free throws to score eight points in less than one single minute to finish off the Bagers.

This came after Luther Head led the Illini with 26 points, eight rebounds, and four assists. The trio scored 57 of Illinois' 70 points.

But the Big Ten is down this year. There is nothing I can see that would prove to me the Big Ten is stronger than the Atlantic Coast Conference. The ACC is packed with #3 Wake Forest, #4 North Carolina, and #8 Duke, not to mention un-ranked Maryland and Georgia Tech. Sure, the Illini probably would lose three games tops in the ACC. But when it comes down to a head-to-head battle between Illinois and North Carolina, you've got to pick Illinois.

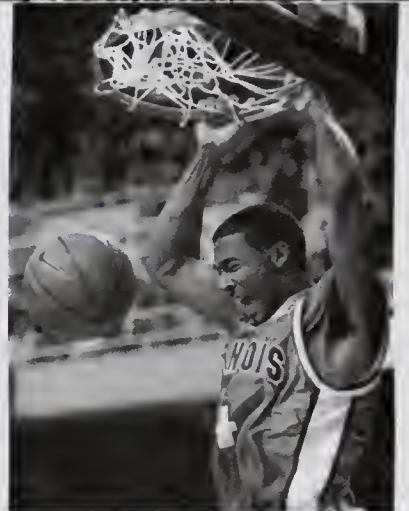
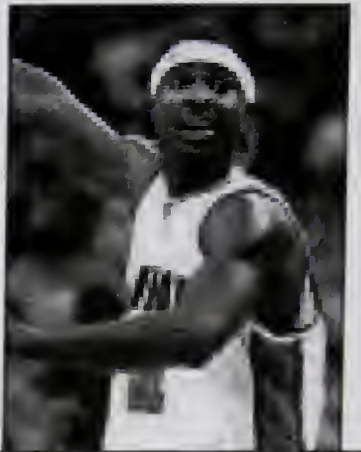
The Final Four is played in Saint Louis, MO this season. Should the Illini get to the Final Four, and I obviously believe they should, they will have the best home-court advantage in recent memory. And believe it or not, the undefeated Illini will have the psychological edge. Remember that Tar Heels head coach Roy Williams has never won the Big Game. The monkey is looming on his back again, and I hope a basketball team from the Midwest can keep it on his right shoulder

blade. The pressure will ultimately be on Williams and North Carolina rather than on Illinois. The way the Illini play is a free-spirited game. They have fun and feel no pressure.

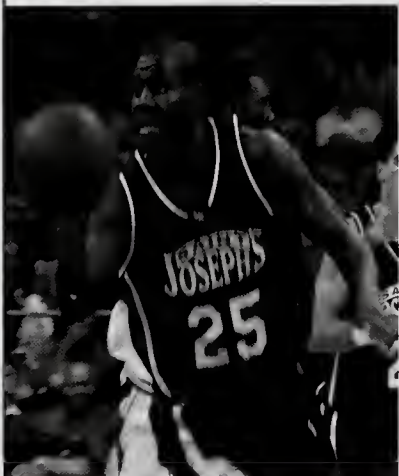
The Illini cannot match-up with N.C. center Sean May, but then again many teams cannot match his power down low. However, Illini Center James Augustine does not give much up down low, and Illinois' guard play is by far the best in the nation, so that potential mismatch is erased.

The Illini are the best team in the nation, hands-down and no questions asked. They have it all: an overwhelming offense range; a suffocating defense; and a positive, care-free attitude that they would bleed for their teammates. To me, that's a formula for success.

(Top to Bottom) Dee Brown, Deron Williams and Luther Head are all team players who have their sight set on winning the final game in Saint Louis.)



Sykes, Rosenbaum Named Puma Athletes of the Week



By Adam Lowell Mandon, *Sports Editor*

Sullivan Sykes and Courtney Rosenbaum have been named Saint Joseph's College Athletes of the Week by the Sports Information Department.

Sykes had an enormous week, putting up an average of 24 points and nearly ten boards a game. He also shot 59 percent from the floor for the Pumas.

The Pumas finished one-and-one on the week with a victory over Kentucky Wesleyan 77-68 Thursday, then lost a close one at Bellarmine 99-96 in overtime on

Saturday.

Sykes is now averaging an even 20 points per contest. He has been named the top male athlete of the week for the second straight time and the third time this basketball season.

Rosenbaum averaged 25 points per game for the Lady Pumas and shot 62 percent in the women's team's two losses on the Kentucky roadtrip. Rosenbaum leads the Pumas in scoring at a shade under 18 points per game.

Have an opinion?

Have a story idea?

Want to write for *The Observer*?

E-mail us at
amh4118@saintjoe.edu
and tell us what you think!

Are You Logical?

Try these brain teasers and find out. Answers appear below.

If potatoes should be boiled for 20 minutes, can you say how long sausages should be grilled?

I went on a trip last week. The traffic was moderate and the journey took two and a half hours. On the return journey, the traffic was similar, but I made it back in 150 minutes. How?

You are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas lamp. You only have one match, so what do you light first?

How can you throw a ball so that it goes a short distance, comes to a total stop, reverses its motion, and then goes the opposite way? You are not allowed to bounce it against anything, hit it with anything, or tie it to anything.

Three people check into a hotel. They pay \$30 to the manager and go to their room. The manager suddenly remembers that the room rate is \$25 and gives \$5 to the bellboy to return to the people. On the way to the room the bellboy reasons that \$5 would be difficult to share among three people so he pockets \$2 and gives \$1 to each person. Now each person paid \$10 and got back \$1. So they paid \$9 each, totalling \$27. The bellboy has \$2, totalling \$29. Where is the missing \$1?

Assume that penguins live with a density of 1,000 penguins per square mile and can run at an average speed of 7 miles per hour on land and swim at 20 miles per hour. Also assume that a polar bear has a territory of 10 square miles, can run at 25 miles per hour and swim at 10 miles per hour. How many penguins will an average polar bear eat in any given month, remembering that a polar bear could, as a maximum, only eat one penguin per hour and 7% of the land is next to the sea?

Courtesy of www.brainbashers.com

ATTENTION STUDENTS:

Do you have an original short story, poem, reflection, comic, or other work that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of *The Observer*? Please contact Sandra at swh4014@saintjoe.edu to submit your work.

Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you feel the need for gossip in the next few days, try to resist the urge, despite your inclinations. Spreading rumors about people with whom you are barely acquainted could cause a lot of social trouble for you in the future, so keep your lips sealed!

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

If you have a few spare moments today, take advantage of them and spend some time alone. Turn off all distractions—even your cell phone—and just relax. You'll be busy again soon enough, so be sure to take the time that you have and spend it wisely.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Someone who has been imposing strict rules on you will begin to let up soon, in response to your complaints that you should be given full trust. Your confidence will finally be recognized, so be sure to act with maturity and logic when you are given the opportunity.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Now is a very good time for you, as anything you plan will certainly turn out successfully. Take the extra time to plan a romantic getaway with someone special, or a surprise road trip with some friends. You'll be surprised at how it will improve your relationship.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you are met with confrontation by a friend or family member, be sure that you avoid sugar-coating anything in the conversation. Even though it may not be good news, your friend will appreciate your honesty, and the situation will be resolved much more quickly by sticking to the truth.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Try to avoid being overly conservative with your money right now. Sometimes a few dollars on a long-distance call or a surprise package in the mail is just what a long lost friend needs to brighten his or her day. Make the extra effort, and don't worry about the cost.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

If someone with whom you haven't spoken in several months wants to get together soon, don't be afraid to do it. This person may have something very important to say, and ignoring the invitation could be very detrimental to your relationship.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

You have the ability right now to convey your message to others around you both in your words as well as in your actions. You are very persuasive and convincing right now, and your poise seems to suggest that you have all the answers, so make sure you really do before persuading others.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

If you seem to be craving a change in your life lately, now may be the time to evaluate what it is that you need to change. You have the concentration available right now to thoroughly analyze all possibilities, so your chances of making the right decision are great.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You're feeling nostalgic right now, and even though this can make you slightly sad, it is healthy to reminisce about the past, no matter how pleasant it was. Share your thoughts and feelings with those whom you shared the memories, and they will make it much easier.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

If someone gives you an ultimatum in the next couple of days, be strong and turn it down. Even though the request may be reasonable, the means by which the request was delivered was not. Sit down and talk it out, and you will certainly come to an agreement.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Don't be afraid to speak your mind right now. You are used to considering everyone else's feelings first and foremost, but right now doing so could hurt the situation in the end. Be honest, no matter how it might make others feel, and they'll appreciate your honesty in the end.

WAFFLEHEAD: HOW THE MONKEY GOT ITS NAME



BY JAMES M. COCHRAN

SJC Poet's Corner

ICU

Inside the cavern it is dark and cold,
Shadows lurk in every corner
And the only presence I can sense
Is the cruel wait of death.
Snakes jump from your body,
Darting out in all directions,
Making it difficult to discern
The outline of your body.
A hiss fills the cave,
Sounding at regular intervals
Like the heavy machines
In a cold, industrial factory.
Lying there, your body sleeps
In an unnatural not-sleep
Forcing upon you the likeness
Of a tiny, vulnerable infant.
Approaching the cave,
I want nothing more than
To rip the snakes from your body,
So I can see again the man I know.

But, like you, I am helpless,
And as I clutch the wall
That surrounds your body,
I can only pray for the day
That you will wink at me again.

-Sandra Wood

within

darkness rise
i am blind.
wondering eyes
i can't find.

quiet breath
that i take.
beyond death
my heart aches.

shiny tears
from my eye.
greatest fears
to say goodbye.

coldest nights
i am alone.
without light
in my home.

once mine
is now thin.
forever time
i'm lost within.

-Melissa Alba

Life

Life does funny things to you.
Life gives you love, happiness,
friends, family.
Life takes away family, friends,
love —
and with that, happiness is
replaced by sadness
until life fills you with happiness once again.

-Dani Klosowski

Novel

I wish I could capture
the ease and familiarity
you've given me in a
butterfly net, then
bottle them for the Tuesday
after you're gone.
But mostly I just want to
remember this feeling in my heart,
to write it down in words and
tuck it into a flower print
hat box with a silk ribbon and
read it on the Tuesday
after you're gone.

-Becky Scherer

Want to see your poem in print??? Email swh4014@saintjoe.edu

Answers to Trivia Puzzles

1. The same as short ones. 2. It's the same amount of time. 3. The match. 4. Throw it up in the air. 5. Originally, they paid \$30, they each received back \$1, thus they now have only paid \$27. Of this \$27, \$25 went to the manager for the room and \$2 went to the bellboy. 6. None: polar bears live at the North Pole and penguins live at the South Pole!